

**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A data transfer apparatus for connecting buses and for transmitting data transferred through its own bus among the buses to another bus among the buses, ~~if necessary,~~ according to destination information attached to the data, comprising:

transmitting means for determining, according to the destination information, whether the node serving as ~~the~~ a destination of the data is connected to one of the buses, ~~and,~~

wherein, when it determines that the node is not connected, ~~for transmitting predetermined error information to the~~ a data transmission source receives a predetermined error information; and

wherein at least one packet of data is transmitted in an asynchronous mode independent of a routing table.

2. (currently amended) The [[A]] data transfer apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting means determines, according to the destination information, whether the bus to which the node serving as the destination of the data is connected exists on a network, and wherein ~~when it determines that the~~ bus does not exist, transmits predetermined error information to the data transmission source.

3. (currently amended) The [[A]] data transfer apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the data transfer apparatus is connected to ~~the another~~ bus through ~~another~~ a second data  
transfer apparatus, and

wherein the data transfer apparatus further comprises transfer means for  
transferring the data from the data transfer apparatus to the ~~another~~ second data transfer  
apparatus according to the destination information.

4. (currently amended) The [[A]] data transfer apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the data transfer apparatus is formed of an IEEE-1394 bridge conforming to the BRAN  
specification.

5. (currently amended) A network system ~~in which~~ comprising:  
a plurality of buses ~~are connected through a data transfer apparatus, the data~~  
transfer apparatus for connecting the plurality of buses and for transmitting data transferred  
through its own bus among the plurality of buses to another bus among the plurality of buses, ~~if~~  
~~necessary,~~ according to destination information attached to the data,

wherein the data transfer apparatus further comprises:  
transmitting means for determining, according to the destination  
information, whether ~~the a~~ node serving as ~~the a~~ destination of the data is connected to one of the  
plurality of buses, and, when it determines that the node is not connected, ~~for transmitting~~  
~~predetermined error information to the a~~ data transmission source receives a predetermined error  
information;

wherein at least one packet of data is transmitted in an asynchronous mode independent of a routing table.

6. (currently amended) The [[A]] network system according to claim 5, wherein the transmitting means determines according to the destination information whether the bus to which the node serving as the destination of the data is connected exists on a network, and, when it determines that the bus does not exist, transmits predetermined error information to the data transmission source.

7. (currently amended) The [[A]] network system according to claim 5, wherein the data transfer apparatus is connected to a second ~~the another~~ bus through ~~another a~~ second data transfer apparatus, and the data transfer apparatus further comprises transfer means for transferring the data from the data transfer apparatus to the second ~~another~~ data transfer apparatus according to the destination information.

8. (currently amended) The [[A]] network system according to claim 5, wherein the data transfer apparatus is formed of an IEEE-1394 bridge conforming to the BRAN specification.

9. (currently amended) A data transfer method for a data transfer apparatus for connecting buses and for transmitting data transferred through ~~its own~~ a first bus among the

buses to a second ~~another~~ bus among the buses, ~~if necessary~~, according to destination information attached to the data, the data transfer method comprising:

a first step of determining, according to the destination information, whether the node serving as ~~the~~ a destination of the data is connected to one of the buses; and

a second step of, when it is determined that the node is not connected, transmitting predetermined error information to ~~the~~ a data transmission source;

wherein at least one packet of data is transmitted in an asynchronous mode independent of a routing table.

10. (currently amended) The [[A]] data transfer method according to claim 9, wherein, in the second step, it is determined according to the destination information whether the bus to which the node serving as the destination of the data is connected exists on a network, and,

when it is determined that the bus does not exist, predetermined error information is transmitted to the data transmission source.

11. (currently amended) The [[A]] data transfer method according to claim 9, wherein the data transfer apparatus is connected to the ~~another~~ second bus through a second ~~another~~ data transfer apparatus, and the data is transferred from the data transfer apparatus to the ~~another~~ second data transfer apparatus according to the destination information.

12. (currently amended) The [[A]] data transfer method according to claim 9, wherein the data transfer apparatus is formed of an IEEE-1394 bridge conforming to the BRAN specification.